

Appendix K. Sample Interview Schedule/Protocol Based on Research Questions

Interview Schedule

Upon completion of the course work, to what extent do participants perceive they are prepared to conduct research and write their dissertations?

1. Think back to when your course work was completed. You were on your own. How did you go about beginning the work that lay ahead of you?
2. When there were no more formal classes to attend and you had to begin your research, how did you know what to do and how to do it?

What do participants perceive they needed to learn to complete their dissertations? How do participants acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they perceived are necessary to complete their dissertations?

3. Going into the program, what were some of the things you thought were important to know to successfully conduct and write your dissertation?
4. How did you get the information you needed?
5. After you completed the course work, how did you know what you needed to do to conduct the research and complete the dissertation?
6. How did you go about finding out how to do what was needed?
7. Being at the point you are now, in what ways have your perceptions of what is needed to complete a dissertation changed?
8. What do you think are the important personal characteristics needed to carry out this kind of work?
9. How do these personal characteristics describe you?
10. If you were to advise a group of students entering a doctoral program on what they needed to do or know, what would you tell them?

What factors do participants perceive might help them to complete the dissertation?

11. Who or what would you say has been most helpful to you thus far in doing this work?
12. What else has been most helpful to you along the way?

What factors do participants perceive have impeded and/or continue to impede their progress in working toward completing their dissertation?

13. What are some of the things that you believe have stood in your way?
14. What do you think could have helped you in making more progress along the way?

Note: Research questions are in bold followed by relevant and numbered interview questions.